

Message

From: Scharl, Kimberly [Scharl.Kimberly@epa.gov]
Sent: 2/10/2015 4:47:07 PM
To: Iraci, Patricia [Iraci.Patricia@epa.gov]; Richardson, William [Richardson.William@epa.gov]; MacKnight, Evelyn [MacKnight.Evelyn@epa.gov]; Hoffmann, Michael [Hoffmann.Michael@epa.gov]; Barath, Mark [Barath.Mark@epa.gov]
CC: Hopkins, Edward J.. [Hopkins.Edward@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: DRBC Monitoring Work Plan
Attachments: DRBC Timeline of 98339311 grant.docx; 2014 Workplan- Original.pdf; 106 Grant Final Package- Amend#2.pdf; Water Quality Assessment Report Final DRAFT 04012014.pdf; ATT97376

Guys,

Please see the attached workplans for DRBC, water quality assessment report, and timeline. Hopefully this will help in our meeting this afternoon.



DRBC Timeline of
98339311 grant....



2014 Workplan-
Original.pdf



106 Grant Final
Package- Amend...



Water Quality
Assessment Rep...

Thanks,

Kimberly Scharl
Financial Analyst/ Project Officer CWSRF
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Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

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Please consider the environment before you print this email do everything.

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Iraci, Patricia
Sent: Monday, January 26, 2015 9:38 AM
To: Iraci, Patricia; Richardson, William; MacKnight, Evelyn; Hoffmann, Michael; Scharl, Kimberly; Barath, Mark
Cc: Hopkins, Edward J..
Subject: DRBC Monitoring Work Plan
When: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 2:30 PM-3:30 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Ev's Office

Hi all – This is the first date I could come up with where most are available. We need to discuss this before we go back to DRBC with comments. Thanks, Trish

Kim,

Last August, Evelyn sent an email to Mike Hoffmann (pasted below) detailing OSAT's concerns with DRBC's proposed use of monitoring initiative funds to study impacts of low DO and PCBs on Atlantic sturgeon. Evelyn urged DRBC to use the monitoring funds to support monitoring activities in the estuary more directly related to DRBC's development of DO criteria for the tidal Delaware. It appears that DRBC ignored EPA's recommendation and they are moving forward with year 2 of the study anyway. Please resubmit our comments on DRBC's planned use of FY15 monitoring initiative funds. DRBC's timeline has the study starting this month.

Monitoring Comment:

EPA does not feel the proposed use of FY15 monitoring initiate funds for year two a research study focusing on the interactions of DO and PCBs is of value since there is a long list of other chemical stressors impacting fish and sturgeon in the Delaware River. We feel that there is already ample evidence to raise the DO criteria to protect other fish species. Adoption of new more stringent/uniform human health criteria for PCBs and development and implementation of the Phase II TMDL will provide substantial additional protection beyond the existing PCB aquatic life criteria and or aquatic life use descriptions to include propagation. Giving that resources are limited, we strongly urge to use these funds (\$32K) to support other monitoring activities in the Estuary more directly related revising tidal Delaware DO criteria. In any event, all work should be closely coordinated with National Marine Fisheries Service as concurrence on any change to the DO criteria is required for EPA approval.

Bill Richardson
Office of Standards, Assessment and TMDLs
U.S. EPA Region 3
Water Protection Division
215-814-5675

From: MacKnight, Evelyn

Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2014 5:15 PM

To: Hoffmann, Michael; drago, helene; Scharl, Kimberly

Cc: Ambrogio, Edward; McFadden, Angela; Capacasa, Jon; Richardson, William; Barath, Mark; Lai, Kuo-Liang

Subject: RE: DRBC draft resolutions- comments?

Michael, There are a number of issues being combined in the three attachments. I will attempt to address them separately, but there is some interconnection.

PCB Stage II PCB TMDL

We are in support of the resolution requesting that DRBC complete the Phase II TMDL and to confirm the support by the states that the TMDL should be submitted to EPA on their behalf to be established. We have several comments:

- Region III has still not received the final documentation necessary for us to act on the newly adopted criteria as a water quality standards change. We note that DRBC did publish notice of its availability in the Federal Register. We were awaiting additional information for PADEP and will check on the status.
- Please advise when the Phase II TMDL is expected to be available for EPA review. We would like the opportunity to review the TMDL before it is expected to be public noticed, as was the case for the Phase II TMDL.

The second set of documents combines reevaluation of the DO criteria applicable in the DE Estuary, development of nutrient criteria, and a new project involving effects of low DO and PCBs on Atlantic Sturgeon. We are very interested in the three goals stated in the background paper as:

- 1) Upgrading the designated aquatic life use of Zones 3, 4 and part of 5 to include the propagation of fish.

2) Establishing water quality criteria for dissolved oxygen associated with the upgraded use. These criteria would be guided by an expert panel and will likely include increasingly protective levels and an assessment of the attainability of each level. *[Note that EPA has stated that the designated use should be fully upgraded to support fish propagation as it is occurring already and reflect EPA's existing DO criteria (5.0 mg/l)]*

3) A focus on the effects of nitrogen in discharges from point sources (NBOD) on dissolved oxygen levels. The plan also calls for assessing the need for criteria for Total N and Total P since traditional effects such as excessive and/or hazardous algal blooms are not evident.

The Background paper introduces the concept of a new research study for Sturgeon to replace the 3.5 mg/l DO standard as it may not be protective of sturgeon. The study proposes to link the effects of PCBs and low DO. We feel that there is already ample evidence to raise the DO criteria to protect other fish species. The project is being conducted by NYU and NOAA. Adoption of new more stringent/uniform human health criteria for PCBs and development and implementation of the Phase II TMDL will provide substantial additional protection beyond the existing aquatic life criteria. Giving that resources are limited, we strongly urge to use these funds (\$32K) to support other monitoring activities in the Estuary more directly related to the DO criteria. In any event, the work should be closely coordinated with National Marine Fisheries Service as concurrence on any change to the DO criteria is required for EPA approval.

Jon Capacasa had proposed additional funding for DRBC to further development of nutrient criteria. It does not appear that this workplan includes that project or funding. If EPA is to amend the grant, we would be expecting to see an amended workplan for that project no later than October 15. We would like an update on the progress that DRBC has made since the workplan was originally submitted in December 2013.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask me.

Evelyn MacKnight

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